

Keith Searle gives Wycombe lucky win

Hemel Hempstead 1, Wycombe Wanderers 2

WYCOMBE WANDERERS scored four minutes from the end of their Premier Mid-week League game at Hemel Hempstead on Wednesday night to establish themselves as favourites for the championship.

Hemel had little in the way of attacking ideas during the first half and, in fact, Wycombe might have increased their lead instead of some near-misses by

centre-forward Keith Searle and winger Hutchinson.

But in the 44th minute Hemel's skipper Wibberley was left free in the Wycombe penalty area and missed the far post by inches.

In the second half Hemel's goalkeeper Whitlock turned back early Wycombe aggression with a string of fine saves. But after that it was almost all Hemel.

They finally equalised in the 69th minute. Williams took a corner on the left which caused confusion in the Wycombe defence and the ball spun loose for John Wallace to score from 10 yards. Hemel were most unlucky not to increase their lead when Williams hit the underside of the bar, and then had two shots in quick succession both cleared off the line by left-back Royston.

But, after all the pressure Wycombe broke away to score a winner. Searle — their best forward — beat two men in the penalty area and even though Whitlock got his fingers to the ball it spun over the line.